

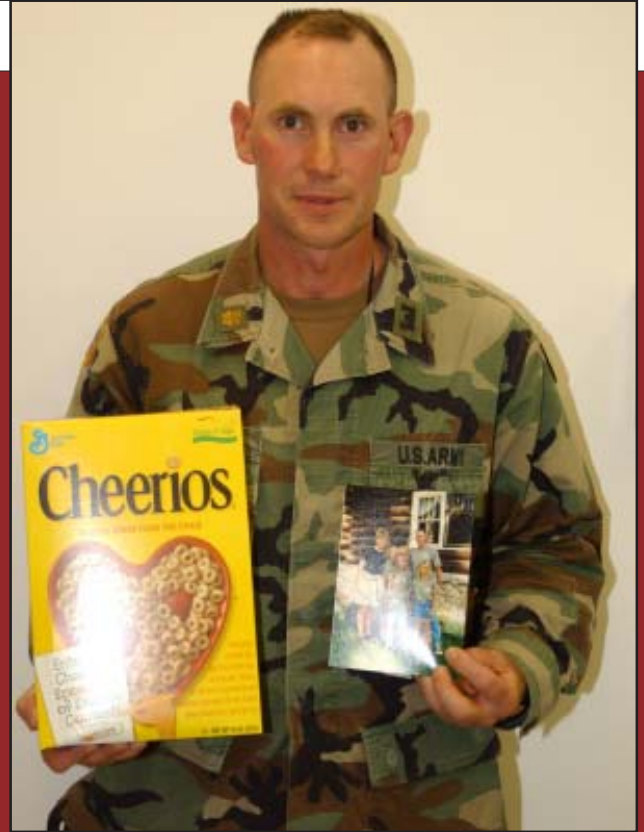
A message for family members

from Maj. David Skalicky, TF Engineer OIC

"When you get home..." Those are incredible words of power and hope for a Soldier. These are words of acceptance, comfort, and words of a future that every Soldier knows lies ahead. We are Soldiers but for a period in our lives, but we are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and for some of us, fathers and mothers for our lifetime! We are anxious and excited to be reunited with you, our loved ones. I am really looking forward to seeing Sue, my wife of 17 years, and my four lovely daughters. I think the first day at our house will require a referee to monitor the conversation! We have so much to catch up on, so many pictures to view and stories to share, but we can't catch up all in one day!

When I shared my excitement with Sue, she was cautious and thoughtful before answering, "There's been a few changes since you've been gone". That made me realize that roles have changed, responsibilities have been reallocated and indeed, "Things have changed". When I shared this with Chaplain Joel Severson during a quiet moment, he had a powerful word of advice. He told me that I should act as a guest in the house for at least a month and maybe more. He cautioned against running into big decisions and making big changes or adjustments right away. His words resounded with wisdom and I wanted to share them with friends and family before our return. Sue and I have agreed that I will not make decisions that the girls bring to me without first consulting her for at least a month. This will avoid confusion and instill consistency to their lives without upsetting the apple cart. It will also show Sue how important her role is in making decisions and how we as a team will grow in our relationship upon my return. I love you Sue, and want to say what a great job you have done with the girls, your job, and completing your master's degree while I've been gone!

Kosovo has been a memorable, exciting, tiring, and sometimes confusing place to be a Soldier. We have seen progress with new road construction, new businesses being opened and elections coming this



**Maj. David Skalicky,
Task Force Engineer OIC**

fall. We have also seen anger, fear, hunger, poverty, disease, crowded schools, and an entire different way of life than back home. Through it all, our families have been our rock. We can't begin to understand how much stress and strain a Soldier's life puts on their family. We can only humbly say thank you. Thank you for your unconditional love. Thank you for supporting us in spite of not having all of your questions answered. Thank you for never giving up on us. We are proud to have made a difference, but the difference we most want to make is the difference we can make at HOME!

Our blessings to everyone reading this and those that support us. We will be home soon. So like Jim Bodet with Motel 6 says, please leave the light on for us! May God continue to bless the USA!



Boss visits deployed employee

By Spc. Rob Barker

Deployed National Guard and Reserve Soldiers can expect to see many things during their time Kosovo. They may see the local villages and towns, military members from countries around the world, and mobs of children asking to have their pictures taken. One thing most National Guard and Reserve Soldiers do not expect to see, however, is their civilian boss.

1st Lt. Brad Wangler, a member of the 192nd Military Police Detachment, had the opportunity to see his boss and chief of the Columbus, Neb., Police Department, William Gumm, when National Guard leadership from Iowa and Nebraska visited the troops here in May and Gumm tagged along.

"I am happy to be here and able to say hi to him and let him know everyone at home is thinking about him," Gumm said. "It shows the Soldiers we are supportive of what they are doing."

Wangler said he appreciated the support and the feeling of job security.

"It is nice to know I will have a stable job to return to with no repercussions," the Columbus native said. "He has always supported myself and fellow officers in their military careers."

Wangler, a patrol officer with the Columbus Police Department, is not the only one of Gumm's employees deployed.

"We've got a police force of 35 officers and 8 of those are guard or reserve," said Gumm. "Two guys just returned from Iraq, Lieutenant Wangler is deployed here, and I have another guy on alert with a



1st Lt. Brad Wangler, right, a member of the 192nd Military Police Detachment, stands with his civilian employer, William Gumm, chief of the Columbus, Neb., police department, who visited Kosovo in May.

transportation company heading to Iraq. We have a lot of military connections not only with these Soldiers, but I have sons of my employees who are in this unit."

Not only does Gumm take time out to visit his employees overseas,

but he looks after their families while they are deployed.

"When soldiers are deployed he has made efforts to monitor their families at home," said Wangler. "It is good to know the support is always there."

Cavalry Soldier receives a visitor

By Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Lee

Recently, a small delegation lead by Air Force Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis, adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard, visited with Soldiers of Task Force Redhorse. Among the visitors was Rose Kleyweg Mitchell, vice president of education and governmental affairs for Hy-Vee, Inc. Mitchell made the journey from West Des Moines, Iowa, to gain further understanding of how the troops operate on this deployment.

"It is nice to see our tax dollars at work," said Mitchell.

With 221 stores in seven states, Hy-Vee, Inc. is the second largest private employer in the United States. Therefore, it isn't a surprise that among Task Force Redhorse troops there is one Soldier that works for Hy-Vee, Inc. Cpl. Corey Dawdy of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-113th Cavalry, is a meat cutter at the Sioux City, Iowa, Hy-Vee store.

Mitchell said that upon her return to Hy-Vee she will share information on how well trained the Soldiers are and how their deployment experiences benefit the company.

"The Soldier is valuable over here, but they are really valuable back at home and at work," said Mitchell. "They go through this experience and are even more valuable when they get back; they are better employees when they come back."

Mitchell finds that service-member employees have a better overall understanding of the company.

"It is impressive that the employee knows exactly what their mission is within the store and these



Cpl. Corey Dawdy, right, of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-113th Cavalry, stands with Hy-Vee, Inc. vice president of education and governmental affairs, Rose Kleyweg Mitchell, who visited him in May.

are lessons that the private sector can take from the military," said Mitchell.

Mitchell encouraged Dawdy to talk about his experiences with his fellow employees when he returns, and Dawdy said he plans to do just that.

"Once I take a three to four week break and see my family I will go back to work and integrate my experience into my job," Dawdy said. He also remarked that what he learned on this deployment would be helpful on his civilian job.

"The store management was very good with adjusting my schedule," said Dawdy commenting on

one way Hy-Vee dealt with his deployment notification.

Mitchell said Hy-Vee has a hundreds of employees who are serving in the armed forces and are deployed.

"There is a huge hole because they all do important jobs and are part of the backbone of the store," said Mitchell.

As Iowa's largest employer, second only to the government, Hy-Vee Inc. enjoys a very favorable relationship with the Iowa National Guard.

"The Iowa guard works excellently with the Hy-Vee organization," Mitchell said.



From the Families

Be a part of the Bullhorn

Submit your helpful information, messages to the troops or tips on dealing with deployment to your Family Readiness Group leader or email them to FSGKosovo@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

Find helpful answers to your questions

Submitted by LeAnn Fobbs, Michigan

Army One Source (soon to be know as Military One Source) - This is an all inclusive place that you can use to ask **any** question (military or non-military related) either by phone or through the Web, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phones and e-mails are answered by live qualified staff (with the capability for translation into 140 languages). They can assist with military questions and anything else (literally). They have MANY educational materials available and even offer limited, no charge, counseling services in your own community. Contact information is as follows: 1-800-464-8107 (from Germany, Italy or Netherlands 00-800-4648-1077); TTY/TDD - 1-800-346-9188, En espaZol 1-888-375-5971. Access through the Web: www.armyonesource.com (initial user ID is army and Password is onesouce).

TRICARE has Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) staff to assist with your questions and problems. BCAC is a Congressionally mandated initiative, implemented by the TRICARE Management Activity to improve customer service, satisfaction, enhance beneficiary education, and help reduce the volume of Congressional inquiries from beneficiaries.

The FY2000 National Defense Authorization Act mandated the establishment of Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator positions, full time at Lead Agent offices and collaterally at Military Treatment Facilities world-wide.

BCACs act as a preventive mechanism for trouble-shooting TRICARE and Military Health System issues and concerns. You may find your closest BCAC by visiting the Web site at:

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/beneficiary/beneficiary/BCACdir/BCACview.aspx>



Important Information

Contacting the Red Cross

Members of the National Guard and Reserves, retirees and civilians may access Red Cross services through their local Red Cross chapter. Red Cross chapters are listed in local telephone books and on the American Red Cross Web site at:

<http://www.redcross.org/where/where.html>.

When calling the Red Cross to send an emergency message to a family member, please have ready the

following information which will speed the process of sending your message:

- Service Member's Full Name
- Rank
- Branch of Service
- Social Security Number
- Military Address
- Information about the deployed unit



Visit Our Website

www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

for more pictures, stories, and information about the Soldiers.